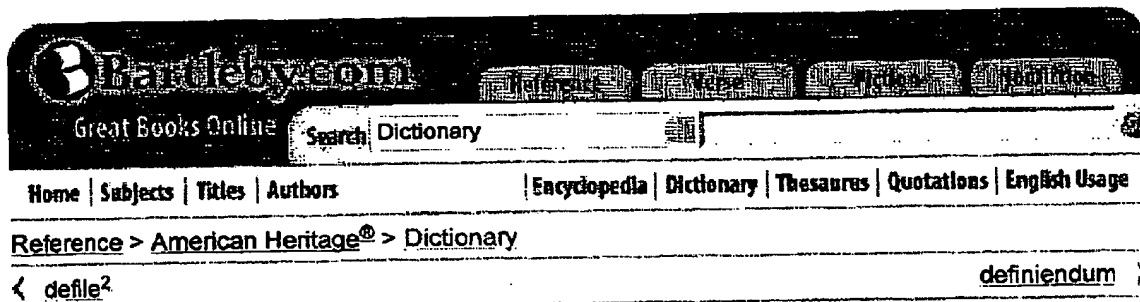


define. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 20... Page 1 of 2



CONTENTS · INDEX · ILLUSTRATIONS · BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

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define

SYLLABICATION: de·fine

PRONUNCIATION: dī-fīn'

VERB: Inflected forms: **de·fined**, **de·fin·ing**, **de·fines**

TRANSITIVE VERB: **1a.** To state the precise meaning of (a word or sense of a word, for example). **b.** To describe the nature or basic qualities of; explain: *define the properties of a new drug; a study that defines people according to their median incomes.* **2a.** To delineate the outline or form of: *gentle hills that were defined against the sky.* **b.** To specify distinctly: *define the weapons to be used in limited warfare.* **3.** To give form or meaning to: "*For him, a life is defined by action*" (Jay Parini, *Boston Globe Magazine* Oct. 1, 1990).

INTRANSITIVE VERB: To make or write a definition.

ETYMOLOGY: Middle English *definen*, *diffinen*, from Old French *definir*, *diffiner*, from Latin *dēfinīre*, to limit, determine : *dē-*, intensive pref.; see *de-* + *finis*, boundary, limit.

OTHER FORMS: **de·fin'a·bil'i·ty** —NOUN
de·fin'a·ble —ADJECTIVE
de·fin'a·bly —ADVERB
de·fine'ment —NOUN
de·fin'er —NOUN

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< [defile²](#)

[definiendum](#) >

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